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THEDWASTRE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

including the report of the

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year 1971.

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Council Offices,  
Elmswell  
Bury St. Edmunds.





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THEDWASTRE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL 1971

Mr. D.J.S. Dyball	(Elmswell)	Chairman of the Council
Rev. J. Simons	(Felsham)	Vice Chairman

Mr. F.G. Armstrong	(Tostock)
Mr. A.C.J. Aikman	(Rattlesden)
Mr. A.L. Aves	(Hinderclay)
Mr. L.E. Baker	(Woolpit)
Mr. S.A. Edwards	(Walsham-le-Willows)
Mr. F.A. Ellis	(Walsham-le-Willows)
Mr. W.E. Francis	(Thurston)
Mrs. M.E. Hazell	(Drinkstone)
Mr. P.W. Howes	(Thurston)
Mr. W.B. Hunneybell	(Beyton)
Mr. A.I. Johnson	(Hunston)
Miss M.I. Kinder	(Woolpit)
Mr. A.R. Le Grice	(Badwell Ash)
Mr. T.H. Marshall	(Rickingham Inferior)
Mr. J.P. Miles	(Great Ashfield)
Rear Admiral W.J. Munn	(Langham)
Major C.J.S. McMillen	(Norton)
Mr. J.M. Smith	(Stowlangtoft)
Mr. W.N. Valentine	(Hessett)
Mrs. L.D. Walmsley	(Gedding)
Mr. F.J. Watson	(Wattisfield)
Mr. B.A. Young	(Elmswell)

A. Owen      -      Clerk of the Council

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

- (a) Medical - One whole-time Medical Officer of Health

Dr. E. Kinnear, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H..

This officer holds in addition the following appointments

Medical Officer of Health	Sudbury Borough Council
	Hadleigh U.D.C.
	Cosford R.D.C.
	Melford R.D.C.

Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer, West Suffolk County Council.

- (b) (1) One Public Health Inspector

F.G. Lambert, M.A.P.H.I., Meat Cert. R.S.H.

Mr. Lambert is also Surveyor to the Council.

- (11) One Additional Public Health Inspector

G.C. Bouttell, M.A.P.H.I.

- (111) One Pupil Public Health Inspector

P. Toombs.

- (1V) Meat Inspectors

(a) R. Wilson, M.R. S. H.

(b) E. Kell

(c) A. Chiverall

SECTION A

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL

OFFICER OF HEALTH

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Public Health Department,  
Municipal Offices,  
Belle Vue,  
Newton Road,  
Sudbury,  
Suffolk.

June, 1973.

To the Chairman and Members  
of the Thedwastre Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Public Health Services for the year 1971.

The statistics indicate that the population increased by 420 persons. The natural increase (the excess of births over deaths) was only 8. The birthrate dropped which in your district has been consistently above the national average, certainly for the past 17 years, dropped that year below the national average. This follows the pattern of the national birthrate.

The death rate was below the national average and 71% of deaths were of persons aged 65 years and over. The 3 infant deaths all occurred within the first 2 weeks of life.

The incidence of infectious diseases was low, although there was an outbreak of coughing and vomiting, attributed to whooping cough among the children in one village.

I am grateful to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their help to me, and glad to express my appreciation to Mr. A. Owen, the Clerk of the Council, Mr. F.G. Lambert, the Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector, and all other Officers of the Council for their assistance to me during the year.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant

E. KINNEAR

Medical Officer of Health



GENERAL STATISTICSArea 34,126 acres1971 1970Registrar General's estimate of  
the resident population

10,450 (10,030)

Number of inhabited houses at  
end of year

(3,763)

Rateable Value

(£238,148)

Sum represented by a penny rate

(£916)

LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	131 (142)	78 (64)	53 (78)
Illegitimate	7 (8)	5 (4)	2 (4)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	138 (150)	83 (68)	55 (82)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Adjusted birth rate (comparability factor (1.08) ) 14.3 (16.2)

Birth rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales) 16.0 (16.0)

Percentage of illegitimate live births of TOTAL live births 5% (5%)



# STILLBIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	1 (3)	- (-)	1 (3)
Illegitimate	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	1 (3)	- (-)	1 (3)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

## TOTAL LIVE AND STILLBIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	132 (145)	78 (64)	54 ( 81)
	7 (8)	5 (4)	2 ( 4)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	139 (153)	83 (68)	56 (85)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths 7.0 (20.0)

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths  
England and Wales 12.0 (13.0)

## INFANT MORTALITY Deaths of infants under One Year

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	3 (6)	- (4)	3 (2)
Illegitimate	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	3 (6)	- (4)	3 (2)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births 22.0 (40.0)

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births 18.0 (18.0)

NEONATAL MORTALITY Deaths of infants under Four Weeks

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	3 (2)	- (1)	3 (1)
Illegitimate	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	3 (2)	- (1)	3 (1)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY Deaths of infants under One Week

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	2 (2)	- (1)	2 (1)
Illegitimate	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	2 (2)	- (1)	2 (1)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE

Stillbirths and deaths under one week per 1,000 total 22.0 (33.0)  
 live and stillbirths,  
 Perinatal Mortality Rate, England and Wales 22.0 (23.0)

The causes of infant deaths and stillbirths were as follows :-

<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age at death</u>	<u>Cause</u>
F	11 hours	Respiratory failure
F	1 day	Prematurity, Rhesus in compatibility
F	12 days	Respiratory failure Blood dyscrasia

#### Stillbirths

36 weeks	Macerated foetus cause unknown (Maternal hypertension)
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#### DEATHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	130 (118)	61 (65)	69 (53)
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 0.90)	11.2	(10.6)	
Death rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)	11.6	(11.7)	
Number of women dying in or as a consequence of childbirth, pregnancy or abortion			(Nil)
Maternal mortality rate			(Nil)

#### COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Birth Rate (corrected)	21.2	19.7	20.3	21.0	20.2	18.9	18.0	17.6	16.2	14.3
Death Rate (corrected)	10.6	11.0	8.49	12.4	10.6	10.6	11.9	10.5	10.6	11.2
Infant Mortality Rate	22.7	28.9	21.9	20.9	48.6	-	11.9	18.0	40.0	22.0
Number of Infant Deaths	4	5	4	4	9	-	2	3	6	3

The following table obtained from information supplied by the Registrar General gives the causes and the number of deaths occurring during 1971.

CAUSE OF DEATH

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
<u>All Causes</u>	130	61	69
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	1	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	3	-
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	3	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, larynx	1	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	3	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	1	1	1
Leukaemia	1	-	1
Other malignant neoplasms	10	6	4
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	2	-	2
Diabetes mellitus	2	-	2
Other endocrine etc, diseases	1	-	-
Hypertensive disease	1	-	1
Ischaemic heart disease	22	16	6
Other forms of heart disease	12	4	8
Cerebrovascular disease	18	6	12
Other diseases of circulatory system	14	6	8
Pneumonia	11	4	7
Bronchitis and Emphysema	7	5	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	1	-	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	1	-	1
Birth injury, difficult labour etc	1	-	1
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	3	3	-
All other accidents	3	2	1
Suicide and self inflicted injuries	1	-	1
All other external causes	1	-	1

DEATH BY AGE GROUPS

	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 1 year	1 -	5 -	15 -	25 -	35 -	45 -	55 -	65 -	75 and over
1971	3	-	1	-	1	1	2	4	25	35	58
1970	2	4	-	1	1	-	1	5	14	29	61



PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Total	Male	Female
Notifications received	26 (109)	13 (47)	13 (62)
Whooping cough	21 (- )	11 (- )	10 (- )
Measles	3 (35)	1 (12)	2 (23)
Food Poisoning	1 (72)	1 (33)	- (39)
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
Tuberculosis, other	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)



SECTION B

ANNUAL REPORT OF  
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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## THE ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE OF THE DISTRICT

The following table indicates the number of separate inspections, investigations and visits carried out by inspectors of the Public Health Department during the year.

Animal Boarding Establishments	--	Visits	6
Caravan Sites	--	Visits	32
Civiv Amenities Act	--	Inspections and Investigations	27
Complaints Investigated			102
Drainage	--	Inspections	171
Farms	--	Visits	42
Food Poisoning	--	Visits	32
Food Premises	--	Visits	181
Housing Inspections	--	Visits	972
Imported Foods	--	Inspections	77
Improvement Grants	--	Investigations	124
O.S.R.A.	--	Inspections	38
Owners Interviewed	--		524
Refuse Tips	--	Visits	73
Sewage Disposal Works	--	Visits	324
Cesspools	--	Inspections	49
Sewers	--	Inspections	74
Slaughterhouses	--	Visits	132
Watercourses	--	Inspections	46

## FOOD INSPECTION

### Meat Inspection

During the year the Council has carried out the numbers of inspections shown on the Table below:-

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED	CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	PIGS
Number killed	270	-	-	19	125,700
Number <u>Not</u> inspected	-	-	-	-	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	285
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	17	-	-	-	15,365
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticerci</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

These inspections have been carried out by three meat inspectors employed by St. Edmunds Bacon Factory and by a member of the Public Health Department who has visited the two slaughter houses at Walsham-le-Willows and Elmswell. It has not been found necessary during the course of the year to send any pathologists meat specimens to the Ministry of Agriculture at Cambridge.

### Slaughterhouses

The three slaughterhouses situated in the Council's area are all subjected regular inspection by the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries & Food. All these inspections have been proved to be satisfactory as shown by the figures on the following page of this report:-

## FOOD INSPECTION (Continued)

### Unsound Food Surrendered or Condemned

- (1) The following table sets out the quantities of various foods condemned during the year:-

		<u>tons</u>	<u>cwts</u>	<u>lbs</u>
(a)	Meat at slaughterhouses weighing	30	15	89
(b)	" " wholesale premises	9	10	11
(c)	" " other premises	-	-	-
(2)	Canned meats	"		6
(3)	Other canned foods	"		67
(4)	Other foods	"		18

The figure for condemnation of meat from whole-sale premises is considerably higher than for previous years. This is the result of condemnation of approximately  $8\frac{1}{2}$  tons of assorted game from the wholesale establishment in the Council's area. This act was necessitated because the refrigerator in which the frozen food was stored had broken down and the firm concerned were unable to hire a recommissioned refrigerator or to arrange for alternative storage. This resulted in the temperature of the product rising and after a very short period it had in fact started to decompose. The condemned meat was disposed of in the Council's tip.

### Foreign Matter and Mould in Food

One complaint of foreign matter in food was reported during the year.



## FOOD INSPECTION (Continued)

### Prevention of Cruelty Regulations

Number of contraventions                      NIL

### Hygiene Regulations - Part III - Equipment

Number of contraventions                      NIL

### - Part IV - Hygienic practices

Number of contraventions                      NIL

### Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

No formal action has been taken under these Regulations during the year, though owners have been requested to rectify minor infringements.

The following is the number of properties in the area associated with food:-

Butchers	4
Cafes	3
Fish Fryers	2
General Stores	43
Public Houses	28

### Shops Act 1950

Inspections were made of the ventilation and sanitary accommodation in shops, as provided for in the above Act. No contraventions were found.

## HOUSING

The following table shows the number of dwellings provided by the Council:-

Parish	Total Dwellings in Parish	Total Council Dwellings	% of Council Dwellings in Parish
Great Ashfield	122	30	25
Badwell Ash	183	62	34
Beyton	147	45	31
Drinkstone	151	30	20
Elmswell	529	181	34
Felsham	134	40	30
Gedding	48	18	38
Hessett	114	38	33
Hinderclay	75	19	25
Hunston	37	-	-
Langham	31	-	-
Norton	274	89	32
Rattlesden	273	67	25
Rickingham Inf.	117	30	26
Stowlangtoft	78	24	31
Thurston	488	57	12
Tostock	145	34	24
Walsham-le-Willows	292	80	27
Wattisfield	143	37	26
Woolpit	453	130	29
Totals	3,834	1,011	26



# WATER SUPPLY

The West Suffolk Water Board is the authority for the area.

The following table indicates the position in each parish (taken from the Council's records only) at the end of 1971.

Parish	Total Houses in Parish	Number of Houses without mains water	to stand-pipe only	% of Houses with mains water.
Great Ashfield	122	1 (bore)	1	98
Badwell Ash	183	2 (bore)	-	99
Beyton	147	2	4	96
Drinkstone	151	6	3	94
Elmswell	529	2 (well) 6 (bore)	3	98
Felsham	134	5	5	93
Gedding	48	1	-	98
Hessett	114	2	-	98
Hinderclay	75	1 (well)	1	67
Hunston	37		1	95
Langham	31	5	1	81
Norton	274	4 (well)	2	98
Rattlesden	273	4 (bores) 6 (wells)	1	96
Rickinghall	117	10 (bores) 10 (wells)	1	82
Stowlangtoft	78	4 (bores) 1 (spring)	-	95
Thurston	488	9 (bores) 3 (wells)	4	97
Tostock	145	1 (bore) 7 (wells)	-	94
Walsham-le-Willows	292	6 (bores) 2 (wells)	2	97
Wattisfield	143	2 (bores) 3 (wells)	4	94
Woolpit	453	1 (well)	-	100
Totals	3,834	45 (bores) 39 (wells) 1 (spring) 21 (others)	33	96

Public sewers were completed in the Village of Tostock and the out lying parts of Woolpit and Elmswell and working drawings are now ready for the sewerage of Stowlangtoft, Hunston, Langham, Great Ashfield, Long Thurlow (Badwell Ash) and Hinderclay.

The position at the end of 1971 was as follows:-

Parish	Total Number of dwellings	Number of dwellings on line of sewers	Number of dwellings on line Connected to sewers	dwellings of sewer Not connected to sewers	No of dwellings connected to sewers during 1971	No of dwellings not on line of sewers
Great Ashfield	122	24	24	-	-	98
Badwell Ash	183	129	121	8	1	54
Beyton	147	124	115	9	2	23
Drinkstone	151	95	86	9	3	56
Elmswell	529	491	444	47	11	38
Felsham	134	94	85	9	1	40
Gedding	48	26	26	-	-	22
Hessett	114	106	98	8	2	8
Hinderclay	75	12*	12*	-	-	63
Hunston	37	-	-	-	-	37
Langham	31	-	-	-	-	31
Norton	274	238	212	26	3	36
Rattlesden	273	167	159	8	2	106
Rickingham Inf.	117	70	67	3	1	47
Stowlangtoft	78	-	-	-	-	78
Thurston	488	400	352	48	20	88
Tostock	145	135	31	104	31	10
Walsham-le-Willows	292	245	221	24	3	47
Wattisfield	143	102	68	34	-	41
Woolpit	453	441	282	159	15	12
Totals	3,834	2,899	2,403	496	95	935

\* These sewers are solely for the Council's Housing Sites.

### Cesspool Emptying Service

Demand for this service has not diminished during the year, but it is hoped that the completion of the various sewers in the area will afford some relief, and enable more prompt attention to be given to the public's requests.

From 1st April 1971 each property unable to connect to the public sewer has been allowed two free emptyings a year, but this does not appear to have led to a rush of unnecessary emptyings, though some increase in private properties serviced has occurred.

The following table shows the number of visits made and loads collected during the year, as compared with 1970.

		<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>
Council Houses	415	(625 loads)	475 (782 loads)
Private Houses	346	(528 loads)	445 (603 loads)
Out of District	4	( 4 loads)	5 ( 5 loads)

Pumping out at Sewage Works and Pumping Stations  
in district 56 vehicle hours during the year.



## Public Cleansing and Disposal

During the year delivery of a new 38 cu yd Packamatic refuse collection vehicle was obtained and a weekly collection was at once put into operation.

## Rivers and Streams

No cases of major pollution were found during the year, though isolated complaints of minor pollution were received and dealt with informally. Though there has been difficulty in producing an effluent complying with the Royal Commission standard at Thurston Sewage Disposal Works the new extensions would appear to have alleviated the problem.

Elmswell Sewage Disposal Works which is at present overloaded, and unable to comply at present, should, following the completion of the extensions and alterations prove quite satisfactory.

## Swimming Baths

There are no public swimming baths available in the Council's area, the nearest being at Stowmarket and Bury St. Edmunds. There is however, a swimming bath at Beyton Secondary Modern School, which is used by the pupils, members of staff, and local swimming clubs. A check is kept on the running of the pool, which so far has proved most satisfactory.

## Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act

Licences for five sites were in force at the end of year, relating to seven caravans.

## Pest Control

The table below shows details of inspections and treatments carried out by the Council's Rodent Operator.

<u>Properties other than sewers</u>	<u>Type of Property</u>	
	Non Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district	3,893	256
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	609	3
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	504	3
(ii) Mice	214	2
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	3,008	69
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	924	57
(ii) Mice	489	42
<u>Sewers</u>		
4. Number of sewers infested by rats during the year	NIL	

## Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

This Act, which has now been in force for seven years, is designed to provide protection to employees in their place of work. The provisions of this Act include control of temperature, lighting and cleanliness of premises; guarding of dangerous machinery i.e. food slicers; prevention of over-crowding and a statutory reporting system for accidents.

All shops in the Council's area to which the Act applies are registered, and have received at least one general inspection, which has revealed that most premises comply with the Act though minor infringements such as failing to provide a thermometer or an abstract of the Act do occur.

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Number of registered premises at end of year
Offices	-	1
Retail Shops	1	20
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	-	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	3
Fuel storage depots	-	1
Totals	1	26

Total number of visits of all kinds by inspectors to  
Registered Premises under the Act 38



FACTORY ACT 1961

Inspections for Purposes of Provision as to Health

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number Written Notices	Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	31	78	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority + (excluding out-workers premises)	451	523	-	-

+ i.e. Electrical Stations (Section 103 (i) ).  
Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building  
Operations and Works of Engineering Construction  
(Sections 107 and 108).

Outwork Sections 110 and 111. - NIL.

Clean Air Acts 1956 and 1968

No action has been taken under either of the above Acts during the year under review. Atmospheric pollution in the area is comparatively minor, being restricted mainly to the burning out of motor vehicle bodies, though this takes place only infrequently.



